

Application No. 10/586,683
Attorney Docket No. 293524US

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FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

Tuesday, May 18, 2010: 2:30pm

Proposed Amendment of Claim 1

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A process for preparing dinitrotoluene,
comprising:

a) reacting toluene with nitric acid in the presence of sulfuric acid to give a
mononitrotoluene reaction mixture having an elevated toluene content and nitric acid
present;

b) separating the mononitrotoluene reaction mixture from a) in a dynamic
separator into an organic phase comprising mononitrotoluene and an aqueous phase
comprising sulfuric acid;

c) reacting the organic phase comprising mononitrotoluene with nitric acid in
the presence of sulfuric acid to give a dinitrotoluene reaction mixture; and

d) separating the dinitrotoluene reaction mixture from c) into an organic
phase comprising dinitrotoluene and an aqueous phase comprising sulfuric acid;

wherein the mononitrotoluene reaction mixture from a) has a content of toluene of
from greater than 0.5 to 8% by weight, based on the organic phase, and a content of nitric
acid of from 0.1 to 1.2% by weight, based on the aqueous phase, and the phase separation
in b) is effected in such a way that further reaction of the toluene with the nitric acid is
prevented.